


BOROUGH OF BRACKLEY

Annual Report



of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the year 1943

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending December, 1943.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Report of your Medical Officer of Health (Dr. S. Leff, resigned), combined with that of your Sanitary Inspector, for the year 1943.

I have the honour to be, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. T. DARWENT, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

October 4th, 1944.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health. Dr. S. Leff, M.D., D.P.H., held a part-time appointment as District Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Medical Officer of Health to the Northamptonshire County Council, his duties extending to the Rural Districts of Brackley, Brixworth and Daventry and the Borough of Daventry. By his appointment under the County Council he was responsible for the examination of all elementary school children in those areas, and in addition, conducted Child Welfare Clinics at Brackley, Moulton, Brixworth, and Welford.

Sanitary Inspector. The duties of the appointment of Sanitary Inspector are carried out by Mr. C. Morgan, who is also your Surveyor, Rating Officer, and Farm Manager.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of Borough	1,685 acres
Population (Registrar General)	2,454
Number of inhabited houses	740
Rateable Value of Borough (1st April, 1943) ...	£12,741
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate	£51

The health of the community maintained its high level and with the exception of measles was particularly free from any incidence of infectious disease. The following are the schools in the Borough : Winchester House, a preparatory boarding school for boys; Magdalen College, a secondary school for boys; Brackley High School, a secondary school for girls; Brackley Council School, a mixed school for senior elementary children; Brackley Church of England Schools, a mixed school for junior children and infants. The approved school for girls, which accommodates 24, governed by the Church Penitentiary Association under the supervision of the Children's Branch of the Home Office, continued to operate during the year under review.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	Male	Female	Birth Rate per 1000 of est. resdt. pop.	Eng. & Wales
Live Births, Legitimate	37	21	16	15.4	16.5
Live Births, Illegitimate	1	1	—		
Totals ...	38	22	16		
Still-births	Nil				

The birth-rate of 15.4 per 1,000 of the population is lower by 4.0 than the rate for the year 1942 and is lower by 1.1 than the rate for England and Wales.

	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1000 Eng. & Wales
Deaths of Infants, Legitimate under 1 year ; Illegitimate Nil				
Deaths from all causes	33	10	23	13.4 12.1

The registered causes of death (excluding Tuberculosis) were as follows :—

	Male	Female	Total
Pneumonia	...	1	—
Cancer (all sites)	...	1	—
Intracranial Vascular lesions	...	1	1
Heart Disease	...	3	14
Bronchitis	...	1	—
Influenza	...	—	4
Other defined diseases	...	2	3
Other violent causes	...	1	1
	—	—	—
Total	...	10	23
	—	—	—

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Facilities. All pathological specimens and samples of water were examined at the Oxford branch of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory under Professor Wilson.

Ambulance Facilities. The Council is a participating authority in the Daventry Joint Hospital Board Scheme and the Board's ambulance is available for the removal of infectious cases to the Isolation Hospital at Staverton. A nurse accompanies the ambulance.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics continued to operate during the year, sessions being held every second Thursday of the month ; talks and demonstrations on health matters were given.

The Mansfield Orthopaedic Hospital continued to hold clinics in Brackley and treats all children sent from the Centre. Operational treatment for enlarged tonsils and adenoids and dental treatment were available through arrangement with the County Public Health Department.

Ante-Natal care, advice and supervision is also available at Middleton Cheney for Brackley residents on the first Wednesday morning in each month.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

1. (i) **Water Supplies.** The chlorination plant at the Council's Waterworks continued to operate satisfactorily during the year and the results of samples of water submitted for examination to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Oxford, showed that the water fell into Class 1 of the Ministry of Health's grading.

The head level of the water in the well showed a gradual decline during the year and the level at 16 feet 9 inches at the beginning of the year fell to 8 feet 7 inches by the end of the year. In order to conserve water the Council considered it expedient to turn off the supply from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. as from December of the year under review.

(ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.** The sewage works continued to function satisfactorily during the year. With the exception of 18 houses in outlying parts of the Borough, all houses are connected to the Council's system of sewers.

2. **Rivers and Streams.** No complaints were received regarding the pollution of streams by the effluent from the sewage disposal works.

3. **Public Cleansing.** House refuse is collected weekly utilising carts and horses owned by the Council. The disposal dump is far removed from residences and no nuisance occurred.

Camping Sites. There are no camping sites in the Borough.

Smoke Abatement. No action was found to be necessary in connection with smoke abatement.

Swimming Baths and Pools. The open-air swimming bath used by the public during the summer months was maintained throughout the season.

Schools. The sanitary condition and water supply of all schools in the Borough were satisfactory.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ...	73
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	89
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ...	—

(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	—
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	11
2.	Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices:—		
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their Officers	...	10
3.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
	(a) By owners	...	—
	(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	—

Statistics in relation to overcrowding are not available.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.** One new producer of milk was admitted to the Register of Milk Producers during the year under review. The total number of producers was six; their premises were inspected and found to be kept in a proper manner. All milk retailed in the Borough is produced outside the area. Eight samples of milk were submitted for examination by the Methylene Blue Test ; six samples proved to be satisfactory, one moderate and one bad.

(b) **Food and Drugs Act, 1938.** Premises used for the manufacture or preparation of preserved foods were regularly inspected and found to be kept in a cleanly manner.

(c) **Meat and Other Foods.** The Government Slaughterhouse continued to function during the year under review. The numbers of animals slaughtered during the year were as follows :—713 cattle, 79 calves, 4,021 sheep and lambs, and 34 pigs. Upon inspection meat and offal weighing 4 tons, 19 cwts. 3 qrs. 24 lbs. were voluntarily surrendered, being diseased and unfit for human consumption. 108 lbs. of corned beef and 11 tins of evaporated milk were also voluntarily surrendered during the year.

Diseased meat and offal were collected by a reputable merchant for further utilisation.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of infectious diseases were reported during the year :—

Whooping Cough	...	3
Erysipelas	...	1
Measles	...	49
Pneumonia (primary)	...	5

There was one death from Pneumonia.

AGE INCIDENT OF NOTIFIED DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis), 1943.

Disease	Und. 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 yrs. & over ages	Total Remvd. all to Hosp. Dths.
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Measles ...	—	—	3	2	4	34	5	—	1	—	—	—	49
Pneumonia (primary) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	1	5
Total ...	—	—	4	2	4	36	5	1	1	—	4	1	58

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Following are particulars in connection with Diphtheria immunisation during the year under review :—

	Under 5 yrs.	5—15 yrs.
Number of children who completed the full course of immunisation during 1943 ...	42	8
Percentage of population of Borough considered immunised at 31st Dec., 1943	40	45

The percentage of children under 5 years immunised is higher by 16 than the percentage recorded for the year 1942 ; generally, however, the percentages are low and it is essential that they should be increased considerably.

Parents who desire their children immunised should notify the Medical Officer of Health, Miss Green, Health Visitor, or Mr. C. Morgan, Sanitary Inspector, at 29 Market Place, and arrangements will be made for the treatment.

Tuberculosis. New cases during 1943 :—

Respiratory—Male, Nil; Female, 1 (27 years of age).

Non-Respiratory—Male, Nil; Female, Nil.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

Scabies. During the year six cases of scabies were reported, three of which were treated at home and three cases were admitted for treatment at the Public Assistance Institution at Daventry.

